

from maltotetraose or reducing amylaceous saccharides having a degree of glucose polymerization of at least 3;

(2) Molecular weight

About 69,000-79,000 daltons on sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE);

(3) Isoelectric point (pI)

About 5.4-6.4 on isoelectrophoresis;

(4) Thermostability

Substantially not inactivated even when incubated in an aqueous solution (pH 7.0) at 85°C for 60 min.; and

(5) Amino acid sequence

An amino acid sequence which is not identical to SEQ ID NO:1 but which has physicochemical properties of (1) to (4) inherent to a thermostable enzyme of SEQ ID NO:1, said amino acid sequence comprising the sequence of at least two contiguous amino acid residues in SEQ ID NO:3 and/or SEQ ID NO:4.